

Fischer (1949) glosses 'verinadabu', the same name I collected in Moheli, as "pigeon vert"; he explicitly says his work was based on the language of educated Grand Comorians with additions from Anjouan. Thus as late as the 1940s a word for green pigeon was current on Grande Comore and/or Anjouan, so the birds possibly survived until relatively recently. However neither Griveaud (in litt. 1975) nor Legrand's Anjouan contacts (in litt. 1976) had heard tell of green pigeons there. Anjouan is a densely populated island with little surviving forest, but the birds could have escaped notice more easily on the larger and less deforested Grande Comore, where they should be looked for.

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The correct specific name for the Akepa of Oahu (Drepanidini, *Loxops*)

by Storrs L. Olson

Received 25 January 1986

The 4 insular populations of the Hawaiian finch (Drepanidini) known in some quarters under the native name "Akepa," are now generally regarded as subspecies of *Loxops coccinea* (Gmelin) [*Loxops coccineus* if one regards "-ops" as masculine, following the unfortunate imposition of Art. 30a(ii) (ICZN, 1985)]. These 4 constitute *Loxops* in the strict sense, the type of the genus being the *Fringilla coccinea* of Gmelin (1788). Whether more than one species is included in this group of 4 is still the subject of investigation, but each discrete population (Hawaii, Maui, Oahu and Kauai) differs in plumage from the others and is recognisably distinct at least at the subspecific level.

The form from Oahu was first collected by Andrew Bloxam in 1825, who described it under the name *Fringilla rufa* (Bloxam 1827). Rothschild (1893), in the erroneous belief that all previously taken specimens of *Loxops* (*sensu stricto*) had come from Hawaii and were referable to *L. coccinea*, described a specimen in his own collection, the last to be taken on Oahu, as *Loxops wolstenholmei*. He later found (Rothschild 1895) that Bloxam's specimens, which I have also examined, agreed in plumage with the Oahu form. Therefore, he resurrected Bloxam's name *rufa* and placed *wolstenholmei* in synonymy. The name *Loxops rufa*, or *Loxops coccinea rufa*, has been in all but universal use for the Oahu bird ever since. I have examined microfilms of Bloxam's field notes and other records in the British Museum (Natural History) which indicate that all the specimens of birds he obtained in the Hawaiian islands, save for one of *Chasiempis sandwichensis*, came from Oahu, thus further confirming what Rothschild had established on the basis of plumage.

As it turns out, however, Rothschild's name must be employed after all, because *Fringilla rufa* Bloxam, 1827, is a junior homonym of *Fringilla rufa* Wilson, 1811, which, as established by Bonaparte (1824), is a synonym of *Fringilla iliaca* Merrem 1786, the Fox Sparrow of North America. Stejneger (1900) called attention to the preoccupation of *Fringilla rufa* Bloxam some 85 years ago, but his remarks have been entirely overlooked. Because Bloxam's name is clearly unavailable for the species in question, the Akepa of Oahu must

be known under the next available name: *Loxops wolstenholmei* Rothschild, 1893.

Acknowledgements: I am most grateful to the staff of the British Museum (Natural History), Tring, for access to Andrew Bloxam's specimens and notes.

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Notes on Philippine Birds, 10. On the validity of *Gerygone sulphurea rhizophorae* Mearns

by Kenneth C. Parkes

Received 6 February 1986

Few authors have discussed the taxonomic status of the Yellow-breasted Wren-warbler (or Flyeater) *Gerygone sulphurea* in the Philippines. In his monograph of the genus *Gerygone*, Meise (1931) included the Philippine populations in a comprehensive species *G. fusca*. Mayr (1944) showed that subdivision of *fusca* into 4 species was a preferable treatment, with the Philippine populations considered to be conspecific with *G. sulphurea* (Type locality Solor, Lesser Sunda Islands). The oldest valid name available for a Philippine population is *G. simplex* Cabanis, 1872, from Luzon.

The name *Gerygone rhizophorae* was proposed by Mearns (1905), based on a series of 7 specimens from Mindanao. As pointed out by McGregor (1909: 448), Mearns inexplicably failed to compare his alleged new form with *simplex* from Luzon and other islands in the northern Philippines, but McGregor himself gave only a single character to differentiate *simplex* and *rhizophorae*,